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VALUABLE FURS
SHIPPED FROM ALASKA

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The value of pelts of land fur-bearing animals shipped out of Alaska, as reported to the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, during the year 1923 was \$1,794,159.85, the total number exported being 397,287. While this number exceeds that of the previous year by 2,040, the value is \$5,127.55 less, because of the lower prices paid for some kinds of furs. As usual, the muskrat exceeded all others both in numbers and in total value of skins, 319,611 of these, having a value of \$367,552, being the year's export. Next in order come the white fox, numbering 7,939, with a value of \$297,476; the beaver, with 14,341 skins, worth \$258,138; and the red fox, with 10,787 skins, valued at \$215,740. The most notable decrease as compared with 1922 is the mink, 31,983 of these skins being shipped that year and 20,668 in 1923. The most notable increase is the red fox, 5,979 skins being exported in 1922 and 10,787 in 1923.

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herd, near Kalispell, Mont., the Corbin herd, in New Hampshire, with one from the Goodnight herd in Texas. The excellent forage on this extensive national reservation, together with ideal natural conditions for the animals, has now resulted in an increase of the herd beyond the food capacity of the range. As the buffalo, elk, and other big game animals on the Bison Range continue to increase it has been found necessary to plan for the disposal of the surplus, in order that those kept in the inclosure may have sufficient food and room to range. Accordingly, last fall a number of the surplus animals were killed and shipped to local and other markets.

The full-blooded buffalo in North America now number nearly or quite 15,000, according to the most recent information received by the Biological Survey, from points in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. We can therefore rest assured of the perpetuation of these interesting animals, with an ample supply for exhibition and breeding purposes and a surplus each year to be marketed for meat, heads for mounting, and robes.

The annual increase in the National Bison Range alone is about 100 animals, and as the limits of the available forage on this refuge have now been reached, it will be necessary hereafter to dispose of a surplus each year. While some will be marketed as meat, heads, and hides, a number will undoubtedly go to parks and zoological gardens for exhibition and breeding purposes.